

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02
DOE-15 CEQ-01 SAS-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 /173 R

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S/AS:PFARLEY
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P:JFORBES

-----055474 022059Z /45

R 021802Z YUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG, IAEA, PERP, EG, US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMPLAINT ABOUT U.S. VOTE IN
IAEA

REF: A) VIENNA 5381, B) STATE 140152

1. JUST PRIOR TO LEAVING WASHINGTON FOR EXTENDED VACATION
IN EGYPT, AMBASSADOR GHORBAL CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY
NEWSOM JUNE 26. AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT, GHORBAL NOTED
THAT WHILE GOE HAD BEEN HELPFUL TO US ON ILO ISSUE, USG
HAD SUPPORTED SOUTH AFRICA INSTEAD OF EGYPT FOR MEMBERSHIP
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ON THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS IN JUNE. GHORBAL COMPLAINED
THAT OUR ACTION "WAS NOT GOOD FOR SPIRIT OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN US".

2. VIENNA AND STATE REFTELS BEING REPEATED TO CAIRO TO
PROVIDE BACKGROUND ON ISSUE IN CASE GOE OFFICIALS RAISE

MATTER OR IF EMBASSY SHOULD THINK IT NECESSARY TO INITIATE DISCUSSION OF ISSUE WITH GOE.

3. AS EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE FROM REFTELS, IMPORTANT DISTINCTION WAS THAT US VOTE UPHELD A PRINCIPLE OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE IAEA'S STATUTE AND RESISTED THE INTRODUCTION

OF A POLITICAL DIMENSION INTO A NON-POLITICAL MATTER. IN THIS CONTEXT, USG WAS NOT "SUPPORTING" SOUTH AFRICA AND "OPPOSING" EGYPT. IN SETTING THE CRITERION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A COUNTRY FROM AFRICA TO SIT ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, THE IAEA STATUTE CALLS FOR THE MEMBER MOST ADVANCED IN THE TECHNOLOGY OF ATOMIC ENERGY FROM THAT REGION; SOUTH AFRICA IS THE COUNTRY IN AFRICA WHICH MEETS THIS OBJECTIVE CRITERION. USG WOULD REGRET ANY GOE MIS-INTERPRETATION OF OUR MOTIVES. AMBASSADOR KIRK, US DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE IAEA, STATED IN THE BOARD DEBATE ON THIS QUESTION "MY GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN NO WAY INDICATED ANY LACK OF RESPECT OR FRIENDSHIP FOR EGYPT, A COUNTRY WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES MAINTAINS THE MOST CORDIAL RELATIONS."

4. AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY NEA/EGY WILL EXPLAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO EGYPTIAN CHARGE. VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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